

Harvest Festival for the Joint Benefice

The online services are a combination the service sheet with links to readers, hymns and music etc. (This can be activated directly from the document sent to you by email, or on the internet at <https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellchurch/>) and used as normal or 'save' the service document, open it afresh and the links can be activated with the service sheet remaining in place). Alternatively, you can open two browsers on your screen, one to keep the service sheet visible and the other to activate the links. Playlist for all the hymns at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACw43CNol-Phy5arqhmj957D>

Greeting

God is good
all the time.
All the time
God is good.

Hymn 1 Come, ye thankful people, come
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3n7IUCdqAM&t=3s>

Bible Reading 1 Deuteronomy 26:1-11 First fruits presented to the Lord

Read by **Laurie Main** <https://youtu.be/KeL-79IUrZ4>

Firstfruits and tithes

26 When you have entered the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, ² take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³ and say to the priest in office at the time, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: 'My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. ⁶ But the Egyptians ill-treated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labour. ⁷ Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. ⁸ So

the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; ¹⁰ and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me.' Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him. ¹¹ Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

Anthem: John Stainer 'Ye shall dwell in the Land'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpvlogPx2O4>

Talk part 1 by Revd Steven

Sunday 4th August 2020

Harvest is a time to give thanks to God for the Harvest and we thank farmers and all involved in the food and drink industries for their work and commitment. We also thank God for everything he provides for us and this is something God would like us to do. It is part of our covenant relationship that we remember God as the source of our food and drink from providing us with the Sun, the rain, the seeds and the wisdom to grow them. This year's Harvest hasn't been the best, coupled with these strange times, it is challenging for us all round. Harvest time is a time for us to again Remember God and our role of stewards in his creation.

Harvest is also a time to reflect on and respond to our creative role within God's creation and our responsibilities, under God, for all God's creatures. Harvest Festival is still one of the best loved church festivals, although the days when whole village communities worked together to bring in the harvest disappeared with the coming of the combine harvester. At Harvest time we are given one liturgical moment in the year to re-connect with the land, to re-think our relationship to the earth and to animals.

Remembering that God is the provider of all, the festivals are designed to ensure that the people never forget their history, their deliverance and their covenant relationship with God. Giving to God in thanksgiving is an essential component of that practice; it is a time for joy as it marks the freedom and blessings they have found in God.

Canticle

Glory to God above!
Heavens declare his love;
praise him, you angels,
praise him all you high and heavenly host.
Worship him, sun and moon;
stars, complement their tune:
grounded in God's good purpose
let his grace become your boast.

O sing hallelujah and praise God for evermore!

Glory to God below
let depths of ocean show;
lightning and hail, snow,
wind and cloud perform at his command!
Let every mountain range,
forest and grove and grange,
creatures of earth and air and sea
praise God in every land.

O sing hallelujah and praise God for evermore!

'Glory to God!' now sing
commoner, queen and king;
women and men of every age
unite to praise the Lord.
Worship God's holy name
and let your lives proclaim
God's saving power extends to those
who love and serve his word.

O sing hallelujah and praise God for evermore!

Talk part 2 by Revd Steven

As we remember God as the Creator and source of all things, we also need to give thanks for all that we receive. Giving thanks and entering into a spirit of thanksgiving is not as straight forward as it sounds. It's not just saying thanks to God and remembering him for the good things that we receive, but to appreciate everything we have and to try and be satisfied with the things that we have, rather than keeping on striving for more and more things. There is nothing wrong in wanting to progress and improve, but we can often get caught up with wanting more and more and get ourselves stressed and emotionally caught up without stopping, looking round and giving thanks for what we have. So during this Harvest, let us enter into the spirit of thanksgiving and appreciate and be content for all of the things we have.

Sentence of Scripture

Rejoice in the Lord always
and again I say, 'Rejoice'.

cf Philippians 4.4

Confession

We confess to you
our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty
fairly.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you
our failure to protect resources for others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Hymn 2 For the beauty of the earth

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHifRLNYUGw>

Let the praises of God ring out.

He is the source of our life.

Let all creation rejoice in God;

sing the glory of his name.

Come and see the work of God,

how wonderful he is to all people.

He turned the sea into dry land,

so his people went through the water on foot.

There we rejoiced in him.

In his might he rules for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Let the praises of God ring out.

He is the source of our life.

cf Psalm 66.4-8

Bible Reading 2

Philippians 4:4-9 Rejoice in the Lord always

Read by **Brigid Main** <https://youtu.be/-LjXvyzC-qE>

Final exhortations

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Talk part 3 by Revd Steven

As we remember God and give thanks to him for everything we have, we then need to respond and share some of the good gifts that we have. In our first reading from Deuteronomy, we are asked by God to take some of the firstfruits of the land and offer them to God in thanksgiving and share them with those who are in need. We are encouraged at this time to bring food into our church's or local schools, so that we can donate these gifts to the local foodbank. If you are unable to do this, may I encourage you to make a donation to the local foodbank in Southminster or support a local or national organisation who supports this work. God is very generous to us in also giving us his Holy Spirit to work in our lives and this spirit bears fruits if the different fruits of the spirit such as patience, goodness, kindness, love, peace and joy. May these fruits always help us to be generous in sharing our gifts and time with those in need, **Amen.**

Hymn 3 God whose farm is all creation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkP0BybUfgc>

Gospel

John 6:25-35 The food that lasts;

Read by **Kathleen Bentley** <https://youtu.be/qaJReGrB5nk>

Jesus the bread of life

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, 'Rabbi, when did you get here?'

²⁶ Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.'

²⁸ Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?'

²⁹ Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'

³⁰ So they asked him, 'What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do?' ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."^[a]

³² Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

³⁴ 'Sir,' they said, 'always give us this bread.'

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Hymn 4 Let us, with a gladsome mind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG6kS1o5PpA>

Intercessions

Let us pray to God,
that he will bring to fruition all that he desires
for his creation.
Father, Lord of creation,
in your mercy, hear us.

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,
and have blessed humankind in making us
stewards of the earth.
We pray for your world,
that we may share and conserve its resources,
and live in reverence for the creation
and in harmony with one another.
Father, Lord of creation,
in your mercy, hear us.

You have given the human race a rich land,
a land of streams and springs,
wheat and barley,
vines and oil and honey.
We have made by sin a world of suffering and sorrow.
We pray for those who bear the weight of affliction,
that they may come to share the life of wholeness
and plenty.
Father, Lord of creation,
in your mercy, hear us.

In Christ you call us to a new way of life,
loving our neighbours before ourselves.
Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is
as we live in hope and anticipation of the world
as it will be
when your kingdom comes and your will is done.
Thank you for those, living and departed,
who have shown a true respect for your creation ...
Help us to follow in their footsteps,
until, with them, we see you face to face,
where all is made new in Christ our Lord.

We bring our friends and loved ones to you Father that in these times of stress we are living through, that you will watch over them and keep them safe. Especially those we are aware of in our community needing your special care and healing.

Clive Bennett

Jean Winn

Carole Faulkner

Jean Webber

Margaret Cowell

Andrew Jackson

Beryl Dixon,

Christine Sibley,

Cally Thorpe,

Josh Pitman,

Sue Wilson,

Georgia

Andy Smith

Quieten their hearts let them know your presence Lord and give them peace.

Almighty God, we remember in your presence all those who have died, and particularly those we have known and loved. Thank you for them and thank you for your promise of eternal life and peace. Be close to those who are recently bereaved, strengthen them with the knowledge that you are always there to lean on and to be carried through difficult times. Today we remember: **Brenda Jago**

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hymn 5 We Plough the Fields and Scatter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccVEjKfKAV4>

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

***Blessing and
Dismissal***

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory and the
welfare of all peoples;

And the blessing of God
almighty. The father, the
Son and the Holy Spirit be
among you and remain
with you always,

Amen



Final Hymn Farther Lord of all Creation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyguLv5A_b4

Notices

For the full playlist of this service click on: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-v3HHJqZACw43CNol-Phy5arqhmj957D>

Sunday's Zoom invitation:

Rev Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Oct 4, 2020 08:55 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7125613716?pwd=QlltTmVoQXBTVjVadEhwV080ZGMrUT09>

Meeting ID: 712 561 3716

Passcode: 366985

Bible Study Via Zoom – Thursday 8th October 2020 – 7.30pm – 9pm – Ezekiel Chapters 9 and 10

Revd Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Bible Study - Ezekiel Chapters 9 and 10

Time: Oct 8, 2020 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79366505364?pwd=bTM4TTFoZ3hKZDNxQTA0aDh4Nnhjdz09>

Meeting ID: 793 6650 5364

Passcode: m97Ctz

Please note from Revd Steven: that I am not at the Chapel for the next 2 weeks, due to Diocese training and holiday and as per the Church magazine, there will not be a Communion at 11am on Thursday for the next 2 weeks.

New Books From The Church House Book Shop

The Bible and Mental Health – John M.G. Barclay -

<https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780334059776/the-bible-and-mental-health>

Finding Jesus In The Storm – Paula Gooder -

<https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780334059745/finding-jesus-in-the-storm>